Snapping of Power Supply to certain PSUs in Bihar

*208. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the Central Public Sector Undertakings like the Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), the Barauni Fertilizers Ltd. (BFL), the Bharat Refractories Limited (BRL) and the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) in Bihar have been given notices by the Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) that the power supply to these undertakings would be snapped if they did not clear the arrears of the Board which amount to over Rs. 338 crores, by November 28, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what steps were taken to clear the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC), the Barauni Fertilizers Ltd. (BFL), the Bharat Refractories Limited (BRL) and the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL) in Bihar have been given notices by the Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) that the power supply to these undertakings would be snapped if they do not clear the arrears of the Board.

(b) and (c) As per information available, the arrears due as claimed by BSEB from these PSUs are as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the PSU	Arrears as claimed by BSEB (In Rs.)
1.	Heavy Engineering Corporation (HEC)	245.00 crores
2.	Barauni Fertilizers Ltd. (BFL)	125.77 crores
3.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	0.57 crores
4.	Indian Drugs Pharmaceuticals Ltd. (IDPL)	4.59 crores
	Total	375.93 crores

All these PSUs are sick, have been referred to BIFR, and in general are facing serious resource srunch.

Efforts are being made by PSUs to sort out the issue with the BSEB and the State Government authorities.

Trade with France

†*209. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether France has offered to double its trade with India and to be included in the category of first five countries which are investing in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No such proposal has been received from the French side. However, in the 9th Session of Indo-French Joint Committee held in New Delhi during November 23-24, 1998, both sides had agreed that the current levels of trade and investment between the two countries were not commensurate with their potentials and both sides had agreed on the need for concerted efforts through the Joint Committee in order to help realise the full potential of Indo-French trade and economic relations.

Grant-in-aid for Social Welfare Organisations

*210. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTIC AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes of Grant-in-aid available for various categories of social organisations and physically handicapped welfare organisations, alongwith details thereof;

(b) what is the total allocation for these schemes and guidelines thereof;

(c) what is the normal time taken for release of Grant-in-aid under these schemes; and

(d) how many such schemes are pending from Tamil Nadu for clearance?

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† Original of the question was received in Hindi.